

Minutes of 3/22/12 Metuchen TV & Technology Advisory Committee

The regular meeting of the Metuchen TV & Technology Advisory Committee was called to order at 8:07pm on March 22, 2012 in Borough Hall. In attendance were the following members:

Michael Scheller Ira Grubman Ron Grayzel Beatrice Moskowitz, Chairperson Mike Guarino, Secretary

Administrative

-Mike circulated copies of the Minutes of the February 22, 2012 meeting for review and approval. They were approved with no corrections;

Correspondence

-Mike noted that the Borough Clerk had received **no** new complaints since the prior meeting. He also indicated receipt of an article in the 1/29/12 Home News Tribune regarding Verizon and their status regarding the progress in providing access to their FIOS service. As per the 2006 legislation allowing state-wide cable franchises, Verizon was only required to wire 70 municipalities, which did not include Metuchen. Thus, we continue to lack competition.

New Business/On-Going Matters

Cablevision

-Beatrice indicated that she had not received any additional information from Stacy Lazarus of Cablevision, who had agreed to provide the following after her attendance at our January meeting:

-a Fee Schedule for the programs offered under their *Optimum Business*, including such services as *Enhanced Traffic Technology*, *Municipal Solutions* and a security camera program.

-a list of several local towns that we could contact regarding their use of some of the municipal services available to towns like Metuchen through their *Optimum Business* program, which the Committee would then review and consider any recommendations;

-feedback as to the need to have full WiFi service inside Borough Hall. The Committee agreed that such service is important and several members confirmed that a user needed to be a Cablevision subscriber and have a password;

- the schools needed more robust bandwidth capabilities between the buildings in order to fully support the number of computers required for the respective schools. Stacy had also agreed to follow up on that need;

Beatrice will follow up with Stacy regarding our earlier requests.

Survey/METV Programming/Municipal Website Issues

-Mike provided a draft summary of the meeting he, Ken, Tom and Michael S. had with Rich DeSimone in mid-February to discuss the Survey results in order to address the following concerns raised by a number of responses - inadequate communication as to nature/purpose of PEG channel and program scheduling on METV, which will serve as a basis for a potential presentation to the Borough Council highlighting the following Survey issues:

-*lack of a sufficient variety of local programming on METV;*

-*lower quality picture/reception on METV; and*

-*Increase public awareness of scope of METV and expand use of the channel within the school system;*

The one positive suggestion was to add a feature to the municipal website (on which there is a link to METV's program schedule), whereby each week several new shows would be 'spotlighted' by listing with the home page link;

-Our new Council Liaison, Ron Grayzel suggested that he inquire as to the potential for the Board of Education to have more involvement with METV to allow more use of the channel for school activities and programming. He agreed to try to contact Board and school officials after the elections in mid-April. He also offered to contact Bill Boerth in order to have our Survey Summary posted on the Municipal Website.

There being no further business, due to the upcoming holidays it was agreed to hold our next meeting on 3/22/12 and Ira moved that we adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Ken at 9:20pm. Submitted by Michael Guarino, 4/22/12.

AGENDA FOR 4/26/12 MEETING OF METUCHEN TV & TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

-Review Minutes of 3/22/12 Committee meeting;

-Review of any Correspondence and/or Complaints;

-Review follow-up issues re prior meeting presentation by Cablevision re *Optimum Business* services;

- Finalize Presentation/Report to Council re Recommendations on Survey results and work group discussion session with Rich DeSimone of METV;

-Any other new business;